

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed April 26, 2006. Claims 3 and 16 have been amended, claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled.

In paragraph 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,510,681 to Nilssen (Nilssen). The Examiner's rejection on this ground is respectfully traversed.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record are the requirements that the power conversion apparatus comprise "a first and a second diode coupled in parallel with said first and second capacitors," "a transformer comprising . . . two secondary windings . . . coupled in series at a second node," and "and inductor coupled to a first node connecting said capacitors and diodes." Independent claims 2 and 16 contain similar diode and secondary winding limitations, independent claim 3 contains similar inductor and secondary winding limitations as claim 1. Nilssen Fig. 9 illustrates a first and second capacitor (BPC 1, BPC 2) connected in series at a node J_c. Nilssen Fig. 9 fails to disclose a first and second diode coupled and parallel with these first and second capacitors respectively. The Office Action argues that such diodes are disclosed in Fig. 12. (HR3-HR4). However, HR3 and HR4 are not connected in parallel with capacitors BPC 1 and BPC 2. Furthermore, only Nilssen Fig. 9 illustrates a transformer (LT) comprising a single secondary winding (SW) and several cathode heating windings (CHW). Neither Fig. 9 nor 12 disclose a transformer comprising two secondary windings coupled in series. Finally, Nilssen Fig. 9 illustrates a saturable current transformer (SCT2) which is coupled to the primary winding of transformer LT at node J_x. Such current transformer is not and inductor coupled to a first node (J_c) connecting the capacitors and diodes. In the absence of any disclosure or suggestion of these features of the invention, independent claims 1-3 and 16 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 4-15 depend from independent claims 1-3 and include all the limitations found therein, and are also allowable for at least the same reasons stated above in connection with claims 1-3. These claims include further limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claims 1-3, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record.

Claim 3 has been amended to correct an antecedent basis error, eliminating the recitation of a "second capacitor," which is not present in claim 3. Claim 16 has been amended to eliminate the reference to the apparatus recited in claim 1.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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